

THOMAS HARMON CUMMINGS AND SUSAN L. ALEXANDER



Thomas H. Cummings, the eighth child of Isaac and Sarah Jones Cummings, was born in Heber, May 19, 1875. He married Susan L. Alexander. She was born February 24, 1880, at Vernal, Utah, and was the fourth child of Henry Miles and Sarah Jane Ross Alexander. To this union was born one son, Thomas Rex Cummings. They made their home where Ralph and Luella Johnson now reside.

321

322

HOW

Thomas worked as a surveyor and also worked with his father and brothers in the cattle industry. Besides the responsibility of their own home and baby, they helped Susan's father care for her motherless brothers and sisters. This had been her task for several years before her marriage.

The happy father and mother, with love and harmony abiding in their household, enjoyed each other and the comfort of their little son for six months. Since a young man, Thomas Cummings had suffered ill health. This condition steadily grew worse, and after three years of happiness this little home was marred by the death of the father, July 1, 1901.

Heartbroken and realizing the responsibility of rearing a son, Susan took her sister Leila into her home to help care for the baby. She found work at the Startup Candy Co. in Provo, Utah.

Two years later she married Joseph S. Cummings on October 30, 1903. Joseph was born June 19, 1877, in Heber, and he was the brother of her former husband and son of Isaac and Sarah J. Cummings.

They continued to make their home at the same place she started her first happy married life. Here three daughters were born, Luella, Nellie and Jennie. Although the father was very proud of his daughters, he never forgot there was a small boy in the family circle, whom he always treated as his own child. Joseph and his wife then



purchased the old Cummings home on Main Street. This house was built by Susan's father, Henry M. Alexander. Here they lived and enjoyed life with their family of four for several years.

Joseph, with his brothers, was very successful raising cattle and was prominent in civic affairs. After ten years of happiness,

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

he took pneumonia and died March 19, 1912.

Again Susan was left alone to make a livelihood for her children. Although at this point she had had much sorrow in her short life, she never gave up, but with love and courage and determination, cheerfulness and ambition, she started out to rear her family.

She accomplished this responsibility by dressmaking at night, clerking in a store, and keeping boarders. Later she built and operated a small grocery store. The struggle to provide food and clothing was a tremendous task, but she always made a happy home for her children—a home where callers loved to come to enjoy cake or pie, a laugh or a cry, always a friendly atmosphere at Susie's home. A few years later she married Joseph Olivier and to them were born two children, Joffree and Foch. Again she continued working to provide for her children, determined to rear them. But her desire and ambition exceeded her bodily strength and as a result of overwork and a rundown physical condition, she contracted pneumonia and passed away October 28, 1919.

322